

Message Text

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ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 USIA-15 TRSE-00 MBFR-03

SAJ-01 OMB-01 ACDA-19 NSC-10 H-03 AEC-11 RSR-01 /140 W

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FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1777

INFO USMISSION NATO

SECDEF WASHDC

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L 3408

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, NL

SUBJ: VREDELING VISIT TO WASHINGTON AUGUST 22

REF: STATE 150339

1. FOLLOWING ARE SUGGESTED TOPICS FOR INCLUSION ON AGENDA FOR VREDLING'S VISIT: BURDEN SHARING; NATO STUDY ON MILITARY SPECIALIZATION IN CENTRAL REGION; DUTCH FORCE MODERNIZATION PLANS; COMPARISON OF NATO AND WARSAW PACT FORCE LEVELS AND MILITARY CAPABILITIES; STATUS OF CONGRESSIONAL ACTION REGARDING US FORCES IN EUROPE. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT VREDELING MAY BRING UP "PENTAGON STUDY" AND US-SOVIET AGREEMENT ON PREVENTION OF NUCLEAR WAR. WE WILL BE PROVIDING SUPPLEMENTARY BACKGROUND MATERIAL ON ABOVE SUGGESTED TOPICS WEEK OF AUGUST 6.

2. VREDELING HAS KEPT A RELATIVELY LOW PROFILE SINCE HE BECAME DEFENSE MINISTER IN MAY. THIS IS EXPLAINED BY TWO FACTORS: HIS NEED TO FAMILIARIZE HIMSELF WITH DEFENSE MATTERS IN GENERAL AND HIS NEW RESPONSIBILITIES IN PARTICULAR (HE HAD NO PRIOR INVOLVEMENT IN DEFENSE AFFAIRS), AND HIS IMMERSION IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE 1974 DUTCH DEFENSE BUDGET. IN REGARD TO THE LATTER, IT IS REPORTED THAT IN THE COURSE OF CABINET DEBATE ON
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THE GOVT'S 1974 BUDGET, VREDELING FOUGHT HARD AND SUCCESSFULLY

AGAINST EFFORTS TO MAKE CUTS IN THE DEFENSE BUDGET IN ORDER TO
MAKE MORE FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR NON-MILITARY PURPOSES.

3. EMBASSY IS ENDEAVORING TO OBTAIN INFORMATION REGARDING DUTCH
1974 DEFENSE BUDGET AS IT HAS BEEN AGREED UPON BY CABINET FOR
SUBMISSION TO PARLIAMENT IN SEPTEMBER. ANY SIGNIFICANT INFOR-
MATION OBTAINED, AS WELL AS INDICATIONS OF TOPICS VREDELING
IS PLANNING TO RAISE IN WASHINGTON, WILL BE REPORTED.
TANGUY

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